AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.

OR,

A Brief Catechiſme for Little Children, ſo ſoon as they ſhall come to have their Naturall Speech.

Whereunto is added certain Graces, with two ſhort Prayers.

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To the Christian Reader.

IT is very requisite for those who are Christian parents, so soon as their children shall come to have the use of their naturall speech, to see that they be brought up in the chief points of the Christian Religion: It was the command of Moses, *and the Prophets to the Israelites, that they should acquaint their children of the delivery out of Egypt. Also that they should keep Gods Commandments, so that it might go well with them and their posteritie for ever. This was likewise the will of our Saviour, where he saith:* Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for to such belongeth the Kingdom of God. *The admonition of the Apostle* Paul *to the Ephesians, where he saith,* Bring

them up in Instruction, and Information of the Lord. *Now the best means of their instruction is by the way of Catechisme. The briefer it is, the sooner they may obtain to learn it. Wherefore, courteous Reader, I thought fit to revive this short Catechisme, which was made by* Gyles Wiggington, *Minister of Gods Word, then Pastor of* Sadburrow *in the North, my late Grandfather, who made it for the edification of little Children, as being a principall way to their Salvation.*

Accept of my Indeavour, who desires more that it may be to Gods glory, and the comfort of you and yours.

Yours ever bound,

Nathaniel Norcott.

A Brief Catechiſme for Little Children.

Queſtion.

HOw many Gods be there?

Anſwer. One.

Qu. *How many Perſons?*

Anſ. Three.

Q. *Which be they?*

A. The Father, the Son, and holy Ghoſt.

Q. *Which of theſe be the greateſt?*

A. All one.

Q. *Who became man, and dyed for you, and ſo redeemed you?*

A. God the Son.

Q. *Who made you?*

A. God the Father.

Q. *Who ſanctified you?*

God the holy Ghoſt.

Q. *Wherefore did God make you, Chriſt redeem you, and the holy Ghoſt ſanctifie you?*

A. To ſet forth his glory.

Q. *Where will you learn to ſet forth his glory?*

A. Out of his will revealed in his Word.

Q. *How many parts be there of Gods Word wherein his will is revealed?*

A. Two.

Q. *Which are they?*

A. The Old Teſtament and the New.

Q. *What do you chiefly learn out of the Old Teſtament?*

A. To know my ſins: and fear the puniſhment of them.

Q. *What do you chiefly learn out of the New?*

A. To know Jeſus Chriſt, and beleeve in his mercy promiſed unto me.

Q. *How many Commandments be there in the Old Teſtament?*

A. Ten.

Q. *In how many Tables be thoſe ten Commandments divided into?*

A. Two.

Q. *How many Commandments in the firſt Table?*

A. Foure.

Q. *How many in the ſecond?*

A. Six.

Q. *To whom do the foure firſt Commandments eſpecially belong?*

A. To God.

Q. *To whom do the ſix ſecond Commandments eſpecially belong?*

A. To

A. To my neighbour.

Q. *Rehearſe the ten Commandments.*

A. God ſpake theſe words, and ſaid, Thou ſhalt have no other Gods but me, &c.

Q. *Canſt thou keep any one of theſe Commandments?*

A. No, for I break them all in word, thought, and deed.

Q. *What puniſhment hath God ordained for thoſe that break his Commandments?*

A. Hell fire and damnation for evermore.

Q. *Haſt thou deſerved that puniſhment?*

A. Yea.

Q. *How canſt thou eſcape it?*

A. By faith and belief in Jeſus Chriſt.

Q. *What hath Jeſus Chriſt done for thee that thou ſhouldſt beleeve in him?*

A. He hath taken upon him all my ill to redeem me from hell, and hath given me all his good to bring me to heaven.

Q. *What wilt thou do to him again?*

A. I will pleaſe him, and ſerve him all the dayes of my life, by his grace according to his will revealed in his Word.

Q. *How many Sacraments be there?*

A. Two, and no more.

Q. *Which be they?*

A. Baptiſme, and the Lords Supper.

Q. *How many parts are in a Sacrament?*

A. Two.

Q. *Which be they?*

A. An outward ſigne, and an inward grace.

Q. *What is the outward ſigne in Baptiſme?*

A. Water.

Q. *What is the inward grace?*

A. The blood of Chriſt.

Q. *What is the outward ſigne in the Lords Supper?*

A. Bread and Wine.

Q. *What is the inward grace in the Lords Supper?*

A. The body and blood of Chriſt.

Q. *What is the meaning of water in Baptiſme?*

A. As water waſheth away the filthineſſe of my body: ſo the blood of Chriſt waſheth away the ſins of my ſoul.

Q. *Shew me the meaning of Bread and Wine in the Lords Supper.*

A. As bread and wine nouriſheth my body in this life: ſo the body and blood of Chriſt nouriſheth my ſoul to everlaſting life.

Q. *Where ſhall thy body go when thou dieſt?*

A. To the grave.

Q. *Whither ſhall thy ſoul go then?*

A. Into heaven, to God that gave it.

Q. *When ſhall thy ſoul and body be joyned together again?*

A. At

A. At the day of Judgement.

Q. *Whom ſhalt thou live withall?*

A. With Chriſt for evermore.

Q. *Whom ſhalt thou meet there?*

A. Almighty God, and his bleſſed Angels, Saints and holy ones, as the Patriarks *Abraham*, *Iſaac*, and *Jacob*, and *Joſeph*; with the Prophets, as *Jeremiah*, *Ezekiel*, and *Daniel*; with the Apoſtles and meſſengers of Chriſt, as *Peter*, *Paul*, *James* and *John*, and all other good men and women that ever lived, and loved God, and kept his Commandments, with their childrens children to thouſands of Generations. *Amen.*

Grace

Graces.

Grace before meat.

SAnctifie, O Lord, theſe thy creatures provided for us to us, and us to thy Service, in Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

Or thus.

BLeſſe theſe thy creatures, O Lord, to the nouriſhment of our bodies, that our bodies may be ſerviceable to our ſouls, ſoul and body to thy ſelf, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

Grace after meat.

AS thou haſt been bountifull, ſo make us thankfull. *Amen.*

Or thus.

AS thou haſt fed our bodies by thy creatures temporall, to nouriſh our ſouls by thy own accord to eternall life, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

Morning

Morning Prayer.

O Lord, thou haſt given us this night a bleſſing of ſleep; give us, O Lord, this day in the benefit of health, that we may more and more go forward in our calling, to thy praiſe, and glory, and comfort in Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

Evening Prayer.

O Lord our God, we yeeld thee heartie thanks for the benefits thou haſt beſtowed on us this day, moſt humbly beſeeching thee pardon our ſins, give us grace to amend our lives, and take us into thy protection this night, that we may lye down in peace with thee, in peace with men, in peace with our ſouls; and that the next day our ſouls and bodies may be refreſhed, and we the better able to ſerve thee all the daies and nights of our lives, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

Of

Of Hoſpitalitie, Almes, and Chriſtian Dutie.

Eccle. 7. *ALmes is a vertue which pleaſeth God, and wins the hearts of men.* Tobi. 12. *Almes ſaith the holy Angel, delivereth from death, and purgeth all ſin.*

Dan. 2. *And therefore the Prophet* Daniel *counſelled the King of Babylon to redeem his iniquity by Juſtice and Almes.*

Rom. 12. Heb. 13. 1 Pet. 4. *The Apoſtle doth exhort the faithfull to give themſelves unto hoſpitalitie, to be carefull to lodge ſtrangers, and not to be barbarous one to another, without grudging.*

Tob. 4. *Old* Tobias *gave bread to the hungry, clothes to the naked, and alms to the poore, and was greatly beloved of God.*

Job 29. Job *was a father to the diſtreſſed, eyes to the b'ind, and feet to the lame, and was highly favoured of God.*

Acts 10. *Captain* Cornelius *gave much almes, and that was had in remembrance before God.*

Jam. 3. *The wiſedome that is from above* (ſaith Saint James) *is full of mercy and good fruits.*

Pſal. 37. *The righteous* (ſaith David) *are merciſull and liberall, and their ſeed ſhall enjoy the promiſe.*

Eccle. 3. *The children of wiſdom are a congregation of the righteous,* (ſaith the wiſe man) *and their exerciſe is obedience and love.*

If

If you love me (ſaith our Saviour) *keep my* Ioh. 14.
Commandments.

And this is my Commandment, that ye love one Ioh. 15.
another.

Love is humble, pitifull, and courteous.

Love is bountifull, liberall, and friendly. Love 1 Cor. 13
covereth the multitude of ſins, and judgeth charitably with all men.

Love is the fulfilling of the Law, the end of the Gal. 15.
Commandment, and true livery of Chriſt, to diſ- 1 Pet. 4.
cern his own obedient Servants from Satans diſ- 1 Tim. 1.
ordered impes.

By this ſhall men know you to be my Diſciples, Ioh. 13.
(ſaith he) that you love together: not in word and
tongue onely, but in deed and verity.

For who ſo hath this worlds good, and ſeeth his 1 Ioh. 3.
brother have need, and ſhutteth up his compaſſion
from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

He hath ſhewed thee, O man, what is good, and Micha 6.
what the Lord requireth of thee, (ſaith the Pro-
phet) even to do Juſtice, and to ſhew mercy, and to
have pleaſure in loving kindneſſe, and to humble
thy ſelf, and walk with thy God.

If thy Brother be impoveriſhed, and fallen in de- Levit. 25.
cay, thou ſhalt releive him.

Stretch thy hand unto the poore, and let not them Eccl. 7.
that weep be without comfort.

Give to him that asketh: and from him that Matth. 5.
would borrow, turn not away thy face.

He

Luke 3. *He that hath two coats, let him part with him that hath none: and he that hath meat, let him do likewiſe.*

Matth. 7. *And whatſoever you would that men ſhould do unto you, do you ſo unto them, for that is the Law and the Prophets.*

Pſal. 40. *Bleſſed is he that provideth for the poore and needie, (ſaith the Prophet) the Lord ſhall relieve him in the time of trouble.*

Ezek. 18. Deut. 10. 18. Heb. 6. 10. *He that parteth his meat with the hungry, cloatheth the naked, lendeth his money without uſury, refraineth his tongue from wrong, and doth that which is juſt and right: this is a righteous man, he ſhall ſurely live and not dye (ſaith the Lord).*

O loving Redeemer at the laſt day, will ſay unto his choſen that ſhall ſtand upon his right hand, Come ye bleſſed of my Father, receive the kingdome Matth. 25. *prepared for you from the beginning of the world. For I was an hungred, and you gave me meat: I thirſted, and you gave me drink: I was a ſtranger and you lodged me: I was ſick, and you viſited me: I was in priſon, and you comforted me, &c.*

Zach. 8. 16, 17. *Theſe are the fruits of the ſpirit, required at the hands of every Chriſtian profeſſor that looks to be ſaved.*

Matth. 5. Ephe. 2. *The lights wherby we ought to ſhine before men, and the works whereunto we are created in Chriſt Jeſus, that we ſhould walk in them; without*

which

which, ſeem we never ſo learned and holy, its not poſſible to pleaſe God.

Who hath given the earth to the children of men; giveth rain both early and late in due ſeaſon, to make it fruitfull, and giveth all good things to thoſe that humbly ask it of him. Pſal. 11. Ier. 5. Iam. 1.

To the end that we after his example, ſhould faithfully give and diſtribute the ſame one to another. Hebr. 13.

Yea, almoſt all the good creatures of God in their kind do inſtruct man to be bountifull, and liberall; the Sun, the Moon, and ſtars in yeelding their light: Clouds and Springs their waters: fields and trees their fruits; kine the milk, ſheep their wooll, and fowls their feathers. &c. Mark 9.

FINIS.

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